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Affirmation



Affirmation's First Annual Report

National Affirmation's 1990-91 program and budget year saw major changes for the organization. Included in those changes was the creation of the Affirmation Council, a group of 20 members elected by regions and at-large who are charged with conducting with the business of the organization. The Council replaces the historic Coordinating Committee.

With the advent of the Council, business sessions at national gatherings are a thing of the past. The on-going "business" of the group is now conducted by the Council leaving the time at national gatherings for programming, networking, and relating with one another as members of the Affirmation Family.

In order to keep members aware of the Affirmation business activities, the newsletter has focused on reports of the Council and the new bylaws provide for issuing an Annual Report. This is the first of those reports and, while it is late in being produced, the Council believes it will help explain our work and activities. As we work to fine tune the new operational procedures of Affirmation, we assure you that future reports will be much more timely.

Planning Committee Update

Members of the Planning and Evaluation Committee had a very heavy workload during our initial year of responsibility. Committee members took the leadership in the development of the committee structure for Affirmation.

Now that the structure is in place, the Planning and Evaluation Committee is working with each of the committees to develop comprehensive job descriptions. It is hoped that the process will be complete before our terms expire.

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Finance, Administration Among Stewardship Charges

Tasks assigned to the Stewardship Committee are many and varied. They include overall financial management for the organization as well as fulfilling the administrative functions that accompany any non-profit group.

On the financial side, the Stewardship Committee has developed the 1992-93 operating budget for the National Council and submitted it to the Council for adoption.

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Evangelism, Communications Work on Target

The two primary functions of the Evangelism and Communications Committee are to issue four quarterly newsletters to National Affirmation members and to support the birth and growth of local Affirmation groups.

During the past year, a high priority has been the timely publication of the newsletter. The newsletter has met its deadlines and expanded its attempt to cover the work of local groups and to provide a high visibility of the work of the National Council. Since the Council has taken on the business of Affirmation, the newsletter is an important source of information about the Council's work.

The committee has sent out several mailings to local groups. The first letter sent out in March encouraged local groups to begin the chartering process that would give the local group a not-for-profit status, use of the Affirmation logo and letterhead and participa-

tion in the nomination of Regional Representatives.

Another was sent in July requesting local groups to send members to the Fall Gathering and a request for local groups to send copies of newsletter to this committee.

The committee has placed advertisements in several national publications to promote regional organizing. The Regional Organizers were requested to meet with the National Council and this committee at the Fall Gathering to assess their needs and to plan strategies for the upcoming year.

Work in progress includes updating information and contacts for local Affirmation groups, more regional advertisement with a special focus on Women's publications, and a form letter that would make local group chartering much easier. We are also continuing the chartering process.

Evangelism Focus on Church Dialogue

Affirmation's Evangelism Committee's primary focus includes communicating to and within the United Methodist Church structure. One of the key opportunities to accomplish this mission is through our presence at the quadrennial General Conference. The 1992 General Conference will convene in Louisville May 5-15 and Affirmation will have a well-planned and coordinated presence at that event.

Much of the work of the Evangelism Committee this year has been directed toward preparing for our presence at General Conference.

Among the plans our committee is putting together are the "traditional" banquet for Affirmation supporters, a regular newsletter for delegates, and at least one worship experience.

In addition to our work on General Conference activities, the Evangelism Committee is updating the Affirmation platform statement which, while directed toward General Conference, provides the framework for our on-going message to the Church.

More Stewardship Activity

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At the same, committee members have regularly monitored the cash flow of the organization and arranged for the payment of bills.

Committee members are currently working on a revision of Affirmation's financial policies. The primary task is to blend the responsibilities of the Financial Management Team into those of the new committee.

To support the on-going work of Affirmation, the Stewardship Committee is developing a long-range fund raising plan which includes an increased membership, pledges, and special gifts.

Committee members are pleased to report that all Affirmation debts have been paid in a timely manner and that the organization ended the year with a small cash balance. We do, however, need to note that our income has lagged significantly behind projections. As a result, much of our programming has been delayed or skipped.

On the administrative side of its responsibilities, the Stewardship Committee has met all of its charges fully and on time. Those include publication and distribution of minutes and reports to the membership on the work of the Council.

Be Part of Affirmation's Presence

At The 1992 General Conference Of The United Methodist Church

Affirmation will have a number of activities going as part of our presence at the 1992 General Conference of the United Methodist Church May 5-15, in Louisville, Kentucky. Among Affirmation's activities will be a banquet, a worship service, a regular newsletter, and a hospitality center. In addition, Affirmation's annual Spring Gathering will occur May 8-10.

To be part of Affirmation's presence and to be housed in Affirmation space at the Days Inn, it is imperative that you make room reservations by April 1, 1992. To make room reservations, simply complete the information below.

I will be in Louisville on the following days and need hotel space:
(Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday, May 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, May 9	<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, May 13
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, May 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday, May 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday, May 14
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday, May 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Monday, May 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday, May 15
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday, May 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday, May 12	

I prefer a room with the following number of people:

<input type="checkbox"/> one (\$66.12 per night)	<input type="checkbox"/> three (\$22.04 per night)
<input type="checkbox"/> two (\$33.06 per night)	<input type="checkbox"/> four (\$14.03 per night)

To reserve your room, we need the first night's deposit either by check or credit card number.

☐ Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$_____.

☐ Charge my deposit to this credit card (Name) _____
(Number) _____ (Expiration Date) _____
(Name on Card) _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Return to:

National Affirmation
P. O. Box 60067
Sacramento, CA 95860-0067

Program Committee Seeks Alternative Meeting Sites

The Fall meeting was held September 14-16, 1990, in Washington, D. C., where we used three Reconciling Congregations. The theme for the weekend was "To Everything a Season. . .Time to Grow."

Participants celebrated the past history of Affirmation, looked at the present, and envisioned the future. The organization has moved into new beginnings with a great sense of pride and celebration. The last formal business meeting the existing structure was held.

Spring of 1991, saw us gathering in Northern California at a campsite, "Valley of the Moon," in beautiful wine country. "We Are The Body of Christ," was the theme which resource people helped us understand our sexuality as a good gift from God. The weekend was spent celebrating our wholeness as the Body of Christ.

Plans for the Fall 1991 meeting are not complete, but we are hoping to meet in Atlanta. Details will be forthcoming soon.

The Program and Activities Committee welcomes input on suggestions for future programs and site locations. As our attendance increases, we must look to new challenges in holding our gatherings in different kinds of facilities. Your help and suggestions are always appreciated.

Affirmation Financial Report

***May 1, 1990
through
April 30, 1991***

Income

	Actual	Budget
Donations	538.10	0.00
Fundraising	180.00	8,000.04
Interest	100.38	0.00
Membership	5,320.00	10,500.00
Other	433.90	0.00
Pledges	4,902.00	8,600.04
Registration Fees	7,760.12	11,499.96
Travel Pool	38.00	0.00
Total	19,272.50	38,600.04

Expenditures

Advertising	0.00	600.00
Council	4,876.90	6,000.00
Emerging Issues	230.00	999.96
Fundraising	220.73	1,800.00
GCOM Study Committee	569.03	1,500.00
Interfaith Alliance	0.00	399.96
Membership	0.00	500.04
Mailbox Monitor	0.00	600.00
National Meetings	8,155.28	7,400.00
Newsletter Production	1,171.78	1,200.00
Office Expenses	631.51	2,499.96
RCP Grant	2,381.26	3,999.96
RCP Travel	465.10	999.96
Reorganization Committee	1,287.22	9,999.96
Total	19,988.81	38,599.80

More On Planning Committee

(Continued from Page 1.)

Committee members have responsibility for planning the agendas of Council meetings and have worked with each of the committees to develop a process which insures that Council agendas include time not only for sharing but for the decision making which must occur each time the Council meets.

As the current Council winds down its term in office next year, the Planning and Evaluation Committee will implement an evaluation process which will be used to help further refine our structure and responsibilities.

Account Balances

April 30, 1991

Checking	486.14
Savings	179.14
Total Assets	665.28
Total Liabilities	0.00
Net Worth	665.28

RENEWAL:
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